

# Office of Guidance Services

## *"I don't know who I am or why I'm here"*

In 1926 SGWU, still a YMCA college, added a third member to its administrative staff of principal and dean - Henry Hall as student counsellor. In this tradition counselling has been, and is, regarded as a vital function within the SGWU educational purpose. It has expanded, taken on new tasks, and become known as Guidance; in the 1968-69 academic year the Office of Guidance Services received over 45,000 student visits. So far this year the monthly figures show a further increase of 15 percent.

Guidance consists of four distinct but related services: counselling, the reading training center, the guidance information center, and placement. The first three are located on the fourth floor of the Hall Building, placement moved this year to 2020 Mackay.

Alex Sproule, Director of Guidance Services, breaks down counselling itself, the focus of operation, into three components: educational, vocational and personal. But this is, he insists, essentially an artificial division. One area will overlap another; a student will come in with an apparently limited problem that proves to have a variety of extensions. What matters is that he should be able to talk to the guidance people about any problem he encounters or foresees comfortably - and confidentially. For instance, if the visitor wishes, the counsellor will not keep any record of the meeting.

The Guidance Office is open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. During the day, the counsellors, all pro-

fessionally trained, are full-time personnel; during the evening a number of experienced people from various com-  
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Alex Sproule, Director of Guidance Services, says it's a "tough age to grow up in".

## **Placement Service:**

### **No Job Improvement in Sight**

Denis Séguin heads a team of five placement officers from the Department of Manpower and Immigration at Sir George and has a busy time keeping up with the four to five hundred students he channels through to various employers for job interviews. "We make up to 2,500 referrals," Séguin said, "since most of these students average about five interviews with different employers."

Of the students who apply at the Mackay Street placement office, 80 percent are usually looking for full-time jobs, while the rest seek either summer or part-time employment.

"The problem with full-time employment," Séguin said, "is that industry wants specialized people, and while engineering, science and commerce students have an easier time in finding a job, it is difficult to place arts students." Another pressing problem caused by today's economic conditions, he said, was that there are no more openings this year than last but unfortunately there are many more students each year seeking employment.

"We're sending almost 700 letters out to companies, telling them about the students and requesting summer job openings," the placement director said. Only 15 percent of those, he admitted, responded to a similar appeal last year.

Séguin warned that because of the slump in construction and because of the general economic ills that still prevail in industry, unemployment both full-time and summer would remain at the same high levels. "I see no improvement in sight," he warned. About 20 percent of the students looking for summer jobs find employment through the placement office and 60 percent usually find jobs through their own connections.

When asked about industry's reaction to Sir George's first engineering graduates, Séguin said that companies were amazed at the calibre of engineer the

University produced. "In its limited fields of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, Sir George is ranked as one of the top three universities in Canada." In other areas, he said, Sir George students with mathematics, biology or chemistry majors were also well qualified for industry. "And of course, commerce students here have an easier time getting jobs," he said.

Another area where the placement office serves students is seasonal employment, Séguin said. This year the service managed to find jobs for 150 students in the Post Office and department stores to handle the Christmas rush. Séguin pointed out that the difficulty with part-time work is that most of the jobs offered are baby sitting and mother's helpers which only pay about 75 cents per hour and in which most students aren't really interested.

Séguin said that the placement office was not in competition with a similar service offered by the Arts Students' Association. "After all, we're both trying to employ Sir George students and if I can't fulfil an employer's request within 24 hours I refer it to them," he said.

The placement service director doesn't see any trouble coming over the issue of on-campus recruiting: "Dow chemical doesn't recruit any more on campus and similar companies are known well enough that the students will go to them anyway."

Referring to the 10 to 12 percent unemployment he expects this year, Séguin noted: "Times have changed. In '67, employers were calling us for students all the time."

Séguin reports to the University through the Guidance Services office. The University supplies the placement service with offices and phones, the Canadian government with all else. Placement officers under Séguin are generally Sir George graduates.



• Denis Séguin is Supervisor of the Placement Service at 2020 Mackay.

Vol. 1, Number 16  
January 15, 1970

published by  
the information  
office  
sir george  
williams  
university

SGWU ISSUES & EVENTS



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munity services work on a part-time basis, up to three evenings during the week. Sproule sees their outside experience as a valuable deepening of the competence of the Office, especially in dealing with the problems faced by evening students, which may have quite wide ramifications.

This year two new counsellors have been added to staff. In his budget, which is submitted to the University Council on Student Life, Sproule asked for one more, but the council, with a heavy student membership, acknowledging the value of the service, added one more. As a result, the waiting time for an appointment, a matter of some criticism in the past, has now generally been reduced to two or three days, and any emergency situation can be dealt with on the spot.

## Counsellors serve as "agents of change"

The basic function of the counsellors is to help students make decisions about their educational or vocational future. In this as in other matters, they work under strict instructions not to make any decisions themselves. Sproule describes them as "agents of change" - should change prove necessary. They provide advice, they can call on information from various sources - notably, the guidance information center, with its rapidly growing stock of literature on educational and career opportunities, and members of faculty. Of course some faculty are closer to the center and more helpful than others, but Sproule has noticed in recent years a marked increase in faculty concern for students as individuals rather than just bodies in a lecture hall. More professors are advising their students to go to the center, and fewer students are



Fred Denton, Assistant Director of Guidance Services

coming in to complain that they cannot talk to their professor.

But the academic problems remain. Students whose parents decided they should become chemists discover a more abiding interest in English or psychology. What to do about it? Decision to change can involve academic, vocational and personal considerations. Ability and interests can be assessed, but what does the future offer? The job market today

can look pretty bleak to the Arts graduate. Fred Denton, Assistant Director, noting the concern of Arts students about their future as a major motive for seeking advice, sees the extent of the alternatives available to them as a prime reason. He hopes to develop a program that will assist Arts students to become more aware of the possibilities facing them, and the choices they can make. But many involve graduate work. And he reports an increase in graduates coming back to get advice about their eligibility for further studies.

## Collegial program introduced

This year the center set up a special pre-registration counselling program for collegial level students. Over 700 students, about half the newcomers, availed themselves of the program during July and August. And though no specific studies have been made, Sproule believes the meetings have helped reduce dissatisfaction with individual programs and the number of course changes.

The need for advice is not, however, confined to the first year or two. Third and fourth year students suddenly start to question their existing academic plans - often in career terms. Fred Denton says that he is getting less questions than previously about choice or change of faculty, more about the selection of majors and the possibility of professional programs. And here, of course, the center cooperates closely with faculty advisers - people like Merv Butovsky, Henry Tutsch and Jack Ufford - as well as with Ken Adams, the Registrar.

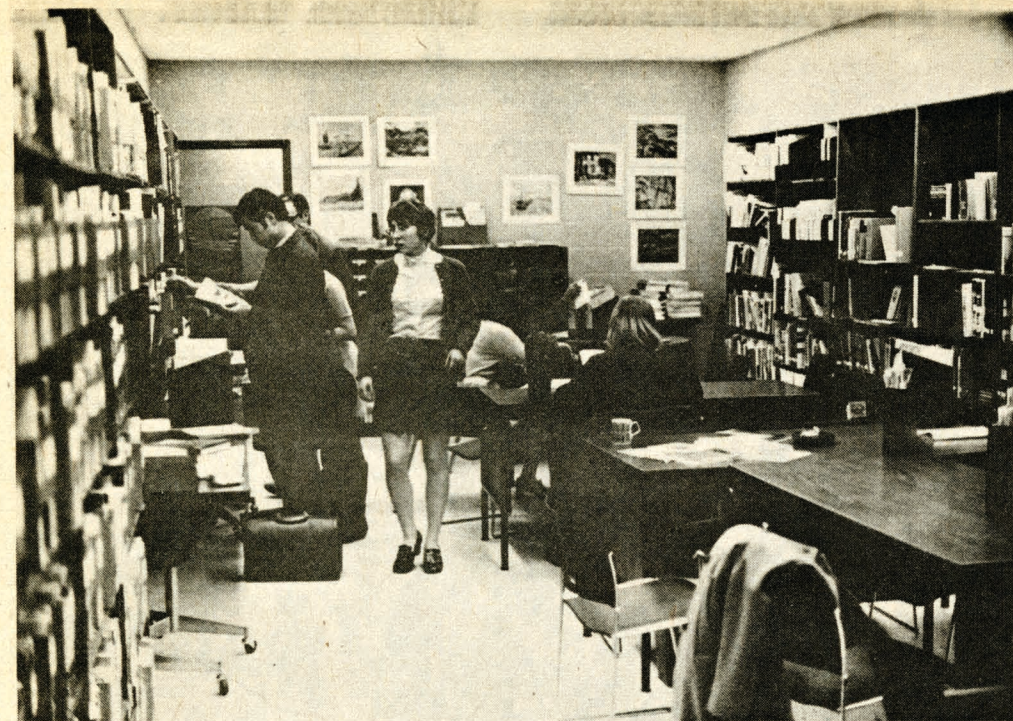
## Sproule is sceptical of testing

One thing Alex Sproule emphasizes is that the various aptitude and psychological tests, which may be used, should be regarded only as an aid in helping the student reach his or her own decisions. And experience, he says, has made him pretty sceptical about tests in general. For instance, the aptitude tests taken by high school students have proved less accurate predictors of their success at university than their high school marks. And the oddball that various psychological tests suggest is entirely unsuited to university work often achieves a first-rate academic record. Which is a comforting thought in this age of computerization.

"It's a tough age to grow up in", Sproule says, and sums up the underlying dilemma as: "I don't know who I am or why I'm here." Basically, there's been a fantastic opening up of choice, of the need to make personal decisions. The controls exercised by religion, family, tradition are all much more tenuous than they have ever been. There's an almost complete permissiveness with regard to personal behaviour - sex or, so far as social attitudes are concerned, the use of drugs, more mobility with regard to employment, less acceptance of the value of a defined career, joining a corporation, etc. And the uncertainty shown by society as a whole as to where it's going or, indeed, whether it's worth going anywhere. That makes a clear personal decision about vocation or way of life far harder to attain, even though perhaps more worth attaining. Add to this the growth of the university itself, and of a related, partly unavoidable impersonality. So that the Guidance Center has the crucial combined task of helping individuals see themselves as individuals and of ensuring that the university responds to their individual needs and concerns.

We hear a lot today about our being an age of anxiety, and this is reflected in the problems that cause the students to visit the Guidance Center. But much of such anxiety is the concomitant of a new freedom of decision and choice. The people at the center spend a lot of time opening up the perspectives that lead to informed decision and truly personal choice.

## Guidance Information Center



## Grad School or 9 to 5?

How good are graduate schools of psychology in California and what can a sociology major do for a living?

Every day up to 80 students start finding the answers to such questions in the Hall Building at the fourth-floor Guidance Information Center, a cozy library of facts on educational and occupational opportunities.

The center keeps a complete range of Canadian university calendars and most American and foreign calendars. The emphasis here had been on graduate schools but, as a service to CEGEP students, many undergraduate catalogues have been stocked. There are rows of graduate-work financial aid files and sample tests for graduate school admission, along with general educational directories and directories of individual academic disciplines.

For those less certain of their future there is a career planning section, an employer file with specific information on 600 Canadian companies, material on preparing résumés, and a personal development section.

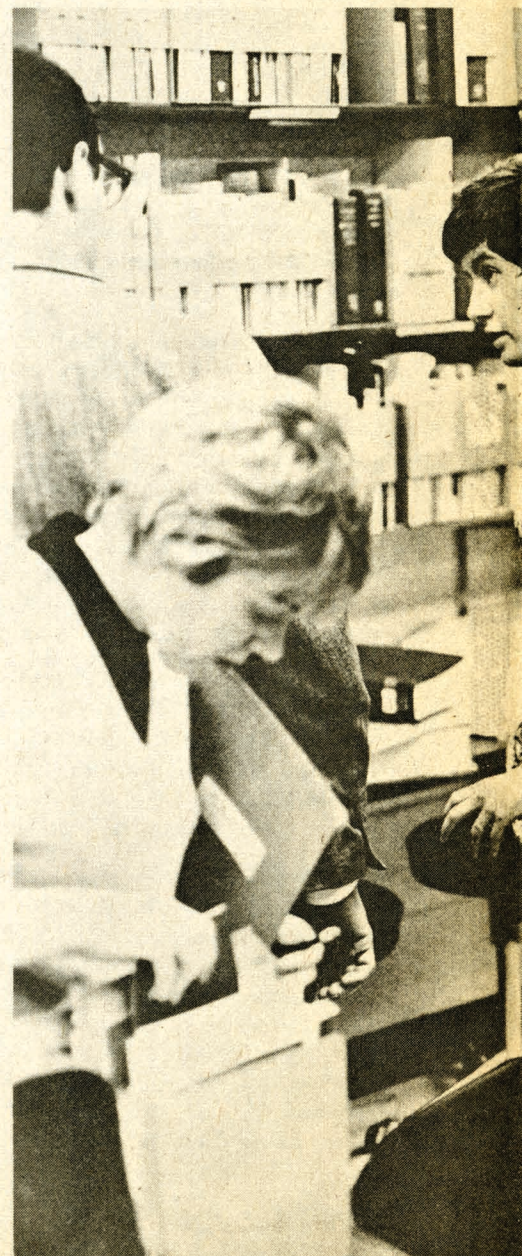
Librarians Chris Richards and Hilda Bleyer are usually seen darting about the place helping students with the inter-related material. "In general areas there is so much information that some students have to begin by discovering what they don't want to do," says Chris Richards.

University calendars and career pamphlets are the most popular materials; least used are some obscure items under personal development ("How to Enjoy Work and Get More Fun Out of Life"), but works on drugs and birth control redeem this section's popularity.

## OFFICE GUIDANCE

## COUNSELLING READING TRAINING GUIDANCE INFORMATION

MON-FRI. 9.00



Chris Richards, Librarian in the Guidance



# CE OF E SERVICES

## NG SERVICE INING CENTER FORMATION CENTER

DURS  
0 A.M. - 9.00 P.M.



Information Center

# Working to Improve Seventh Grade Reading Levels

"You can find adults around who've just read a book from cover to cover for the first time," said Jack Skene stressing the need for an expanded reading course. "Many of our students begin the course reading with their lips and some sub-vocalize with throat movements," he said.

Jack Skene is filling in for Reading and Study Skills counsellor Doreen Osborne who is recovering from a penicillin infection. Skene himself has been involved with programs at the North Island Regional School Board and at McGill University.

Skene went on to explain some of the more obvious bad reading habits. Some students, he said, actually read at the rate of speaking, others go through "regression", that is re-reading material they've just read. "It's really an attitude change. For some, the program just won't work. It's a lot of work under intensive pressure."

Some 400 people are on the waiting list for the course which can only cope with 100 students per session. There are now 4 sessions running throughout the year, two of which are held during the winter term. Each group has 25 students who fill the 4th floor lecture room.

The main factor that sets the Sir George program apart from commercial operations such as the Evelyn Wood Institute is that a good deal of emphasis is placed on study skills and learning habits.

With this in mind, two extra library classes have been tacked on to give students instructions on library use.

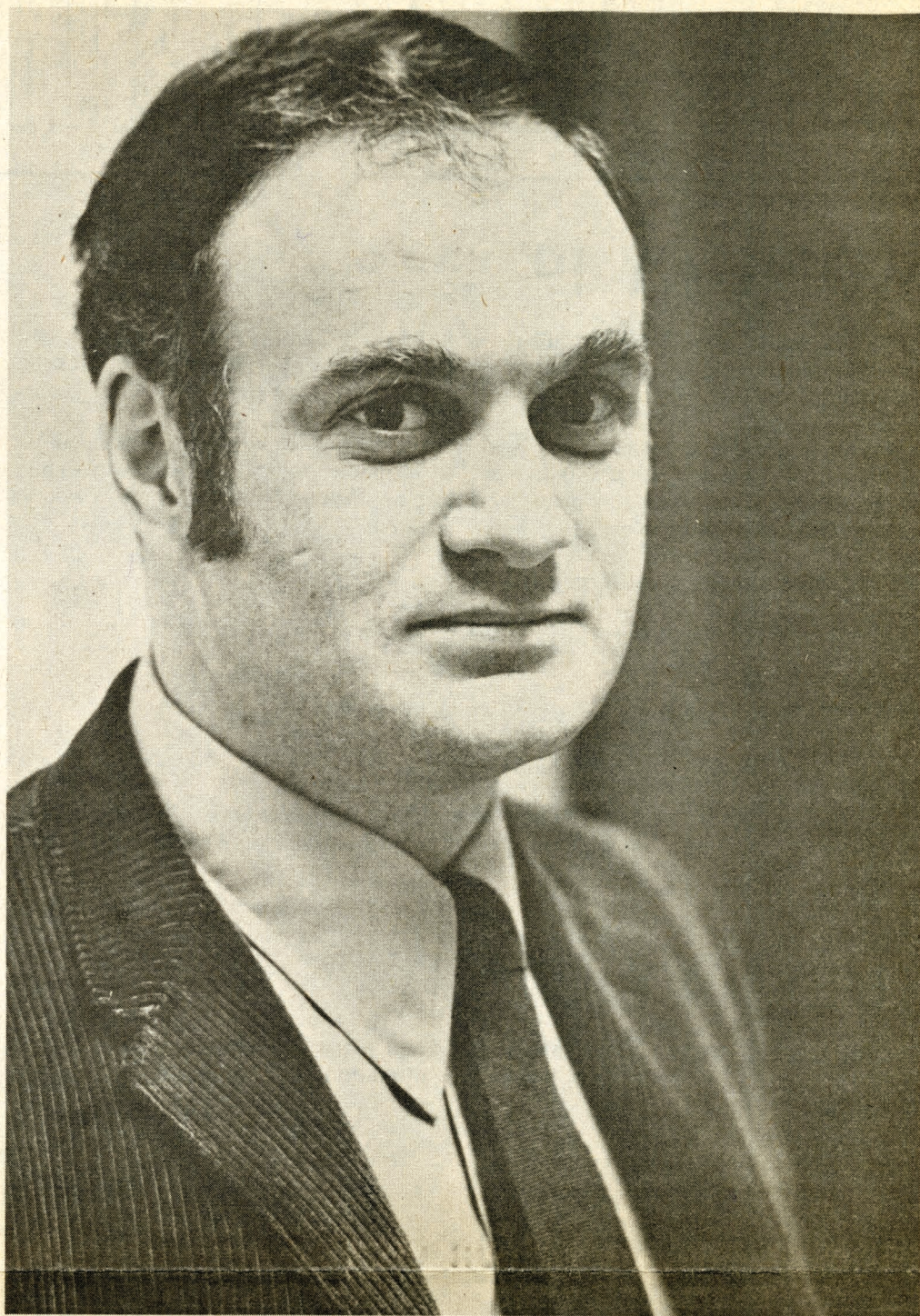
"There are those," Skene said, "who just cannot read. This can result from an emotional or physical problem, or possibly it's the result of bad early training." However, the reading service hasn't now the facilities to deal in this more difficult area, particularly as these problems must be dealt with on an individual basis.

Skene said that there would probably be a tremendous outcry from students if the course was imposed on them in the same way that English 211 was. "The course could definitely be expanded and perhaps made into a half course," he said. "But the demand for the course is high now because it's a voluntary one and because resources are limited. It's like a course in basket weaving - it's useful but non-academic."

The program costs the Sir George student \$15 (\$85 for non-students) to take the six week course which involves two hours a week. In addition a reading lab with adjoining study rooms is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The reading aids include projectors for perception and speed training, scanning devices and a collection of texts on reading improvement. Until recently the room housed a tape recorder but that and other equipment was stolen. "I suppose the dictionary will be next," remarked Skene.

Both Doreen Osborne and Skene took the service to Montreal General Hospital after a staff nurse, having taken the Sir George course, asked the hospital to bring them in to give reading and study instruction to student nurses. "We're always getting requests from outside groups to do in-service training," Skene said, "but again we don't have the personnel."

Another result of poor reading habits is a limited vocabulary, so emphasis is placed on vocabulary building. Skene estimates that students beginning the course usually have a grade seven level vocabulary which roughly parallels their grade seven level reading speed of up to 250 words per minute. The course results in almost all students doubling this with improved comprehension.



Guidance Services Counsellor Jack Skene

## Principal Names Booking Task Force

Dr. John W. O'Brien, Principal, has appointed a task force to develop proposed policies regarding the booking of University premises for events outside the academic program.

Named to the task force are Mr. Kenneth Adams (chairman), Mr. Ian Dewar, Mr. Michael Goldfield, Mr. Jack Hopkins, Prof. Paul Widdows and Mr. Michael Sheldon (secretary).

The mandate is to study and make recommendations for a policy concerning the priorities to be accorded to different categories of events based on their nature and sponsorship, and the allocation of bookings based on these priorities; the requirements and constraints bearing on the use of University premises for various purposes, notably (a) security, (b) period of availability, for instance during and outside the academic year, (c) costs to the University, and charges to be levied, and (d) extent of permissible publicity; the purposes for which premises may be used, including the raising of funds through film showings, etc.; and the coordination and administration of bookings, including the desirability of centralization and the use of forms, contracts, etc.

The task force will meet with the persons responsible for the various areas of University operation involved in its mandate. It is to submit a report by February 27, 1970.

## Board Approves New Fund-Raising Policy

A new fund-raising policy was approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting of January 8. The policy is designed both to encourage initiative by departments and faculty members in seeking outside funds and to coordinate the activity.

Applications for research funds to recognized grant-giving agencies such as Canada Council and NRC may be made without reference to the University beyond those procedures required by the agencies themselves. If University space or facilities will be needed, the application should be cleared beforehand with the department chairman and dean. It is pointed out that the University must be informed about all applications.

A list is given of the other purposes for which outside gifts should be encouraged:

- Graduate fellowships
- Undergraduate fellowships and bursaries
- Library, film and art acquisitions
- Items of capital equipment
- Support of research
- Subject awards, as described in the awards policy of University Council.

Departments or faculty members who wish to approach donors for these purposes should forward their proposals through their department chairman to the dean and the Vice-Principal Academic, and thence to the Principal for authorization.



# THE WEEK AT SGWU

## MONDAY 19

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: Gary Cooper Festival ends tonight with "Sergeant York" (Howard Hawks, 1941) also with Walter Brennan, Joan Leslie and George Tobias.

CHANNEL 4: "Communications and Society" - a series of videotaped lectures by Prof. Charles Siepman, N.Y.U.; this week "Government Policy in Controlling Public Communications" at 10, 10:30 a.m., 2 and 2:30 p.m. through Friday; may be viewed in individual carrels located in H-523.

HOCKEY: Macdonald vs. Sir George at the Forum, 8:00 p.m.

WIESSMAN GALLERY: "Extrusion 65" - the sculptures of John Ivor Smith - to January 24.

GALLERY I: Chris Hayward paintings, drawings and watercolors to January 24.

GALLERY II: Posters from Cuba to January 27.

"CAN YOU ALL HEAR AT THE BACK?": A show on the new Sir George student union on University channel 9 at 10, 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## TUESDAY 20

GEORGIAN FILM SOCIETY: The year 2440 as seen in 1940 by spaced-out Buck Rogers in H-110 at 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. with a selection of shorts of the period and door prizes; all for 25c.

## THURSDAY 22

GEORGIAN FILM SOCIETY: Buck Rogers in H-110 at 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. (also Tuesday).

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "Au coeur de la Vie" (Robert Enrico, 1961-62), trilogy based on the Ambrose Bierce short stories "Chickamauga," "La Rivière du Hibou" ("An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge") and "L'Oiseau Moqueur" in H-110 at 9 p.m.; 50c for students, 75c for non-students.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE LABORATORIES: Opens at 7 p.m. in H-110 with Dr. Elton Hocking, Professor of Modern Language Education at Purdue, and Pierre Léon, U of T, on "Rétrospective et Perspectives"; at 8 p.m. the film "Sight and Sound"; a \$6 registration fee covers the full conference which runs through Saturday - further information at 879-4333.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS: Prof. R.W. Nicholls of York University gives an illustrated lecture on "Spectroscopy in Space" at 3 p.m. in H-620.

## FRIDAY 23

POETRY READING: Diane Wakoski reads in H-651 at 9 p.m.; free.

BASKETBALL: Macdonald vs. Sir George at Loyola, 8:30 p.m.

HOCKEY: Waterloo vs. Sir George at Pte. Claire Arena, 7:00 p.m.

ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL: Meeting in H-769 at 2:30 p.m.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE LABORATORIES: "Psychology and Language Laboratory Learning" with McGill's Wallace Lambert, Ohio State's Paul Pimsleur and SGWU's William Gardiner at 9 a.m. in Birks Hall; "The Future of Language Laboratories" with U of Wisconsin's Robert Roeming at 11:30 a.m. in Birks Hall; "Conditions techniques et principes pédagogiques" with SGWU's Gilbert Taggart and U de M's Louis Chatagnier, also Boston College's Rebecca Valette on "Testing in the Language Laboratory" at 2:30 p.m. in H-937; world-wide survey of language laboratories with an international panel at 4:30 p.m. in H-937; reception at 7:30 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS: "The First Time" with Jacqueline Bissett in H-110 at 8:30 p.m.; 99¢.

## SATURDAY 24

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE LABORATORIES: Talks on language labs in elementary, secondary, collegial and university levels at 9 a.m.; demonstration of instructional practices at 10:30 a.m.; Brown University's James Dodge on "Advice to the Profession - a word of caution" and Modern Language Association's André Paquette on "Pour une Méthodologie Réaliste et une Utilisation Rationnelle des Laboratoires de Langues" at 1:30 p.m.; all in H-937.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS: "Justine" with Anouk Aimée and Dirk Bogarde in H-110 at 8:30 p.m.; 99¢.



*Diane Wakoski, boss lady of the New American Poets, gives a free reading Friday the 23rd at 9 p.m. in H-651.*

## SGWU ISSUES & EVENTS

SGWU ISSUES & EVENTS is published weekly by the Information Office of Sir George Williams University, Montreal. The editorial offices are located in room 211 of the Norris Building, 1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 107, Quebec. Telephone 879-2867.

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